

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, LAUNDRY
NO. 1

HABS MO-1943-F
MO-1943-F

(Veterans Administration Facility, Jefferson Barracks, Building No. 6)
(Veterans Administration Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, Warehouse)
(Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks
Division)

VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division

1 Jefferson Barracks Drive

Saint Louis

Independent City

Missouri

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 C Street NW

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, LAUNDRY 1 (BUILDING 6)

HABS No. MO-1943-F

Location: Building 6, VA Medical Center, 1 Jefferson Barracks Drive,
St. Louis, Missouri
USGS Quadrangle Oakville, Missouri
UTM Coordinates 16 7258218 E 9965556 N

Date of Construction: 1922-1923

Designer: Treasury Department Supervising Architect's Office

Contractor: James Stewart and Company

Present Owner: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)

Present Use: Warehouse

Significance: Laundry 1 was part of the early 1920s effort to build modern hospitals for U.S. military veterans. The building continued to serve as a laundry facility at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, from the 1920s through 1952, when a new laundry (Building 48) was built for the hospital. After 1952, Laundry 1 (Building 6) was used by the hospital as a warehouse.

Project Information: This project was sponsored and funded by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as mitigation for the demolition of buildings at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, a property that has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places via consensus determination of eligibility between the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources State Historic Preservation Office.

Description:

Laundry 1 (Building 6) was the original laundry facility at the U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, and is a stucco-clad one-story building with a shed concrete-beam and slab roof covered over with asphalt. The building is twelve bays wide and four bays deep. The overall plan of the building is roughly H-shaped. Due to the oval-shaped layout of the original U.S. Veterans Hospital, the facade of Building 6 faces southeast rather than south. The building faces a large asphalt parking lot and is situated west of the original Boiler House (Building 5).

The facade features a raised porch in the center with a concrete base and roof and thin steel support columns. The porch has six metal double-hung replacement windows and two replacement flat metal doors. The northeast and southwest (side) walls of the building feature double-hung metal replacement windows, and the northwest (rear) wall has a series of replacement double-hung windows and a flat metal door.

The interior has a large main space with concrete walls, concrete floors, and a concrete single-pitched beam-and-slab ceiling. The building also features two small rooms: the northeast room is a small restroom and shower facility, and the southwest room is a small storage space. Original laundry equipment and wood floors have been removed from the interior, but the layout and structural aspects of the interior spaces are intact.

History:

The U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, was part of an early 1920s plan to reform health care for veterans. Before the early 1920s, health care for veterans had in many cases been dispensed from improvised facilities that were in poor condition and not well suited for the task. After a well-publicized tour of some of these hospitals, the U.S. Veterans Bureau began planning and construction on new, modern hospitals throughout the United States. Planning for the U.S. Veterans Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, including drafting of construction drawings for Laundry 1 (Building 6), took place in 1922. Construction on Laundry 1 and other major buildings at the hospital began in 1922 and was completed in 1923.

Original floor plans show that Laundry 1 had one floor that was divided up into three functional areas. One functional area was a series of three rooms on the building's east side that included a large room for receiving incoming laundry, a men's toilet, and a special room for segregating infected items from the rest of the laundry. A second area was a large centrally located open room that housed most of the laundry machinery, including wash tubs, two washers, an extractor for removing water, dryers, a drypress, ironing equipment, and a starch cooker and starch table. The third work area, located on the west side of the

building, contained a women's restroom and the delivery room. The entire interior was shown as having wood floors.¹

Laundry 1 continued to serve its original purpose through the 1930s and 1940s. In the early 1950s, work began to expand facilities at the Jefferson Barracks Veterans Administration facility to convert the campus into a neuropsychiatric hospital. A series of large new buildings were constructed for the hospital in 1950-1952, making the original laundry inadequate to serve the campus. A new, larger laundry (Laundry 2, Building 48) was completed in 1952 to serve the expanded VA campus at Jefferson Barracks. Laundry 1 appears to have been converted at this time to a warehouse. The building's interior retains no original equipment, but the layout is fairly intact. Laundry 1 is currently used for storage.

Current redevelopment plans call for demolition and construction of new facilities at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division. Laundry 1 is scheduled for demolition in the coming years as part of this redevelopment project.

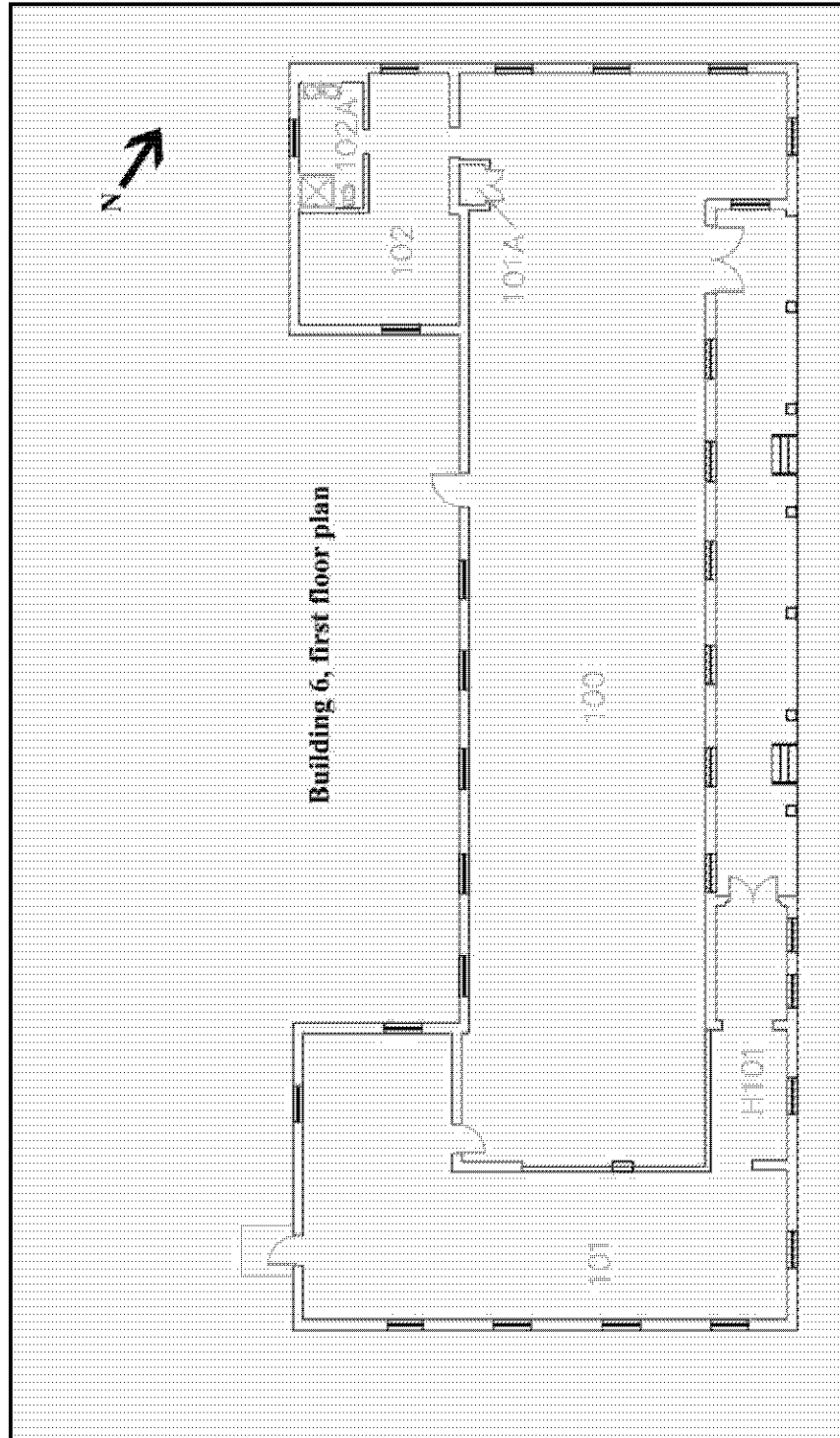
Sources:

Department of the Treasury, Supervising Architect's Office. *U.S. Veterans Bureau, Jefferson Barracks, Laundry*. 1922. On file at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.

Historians:

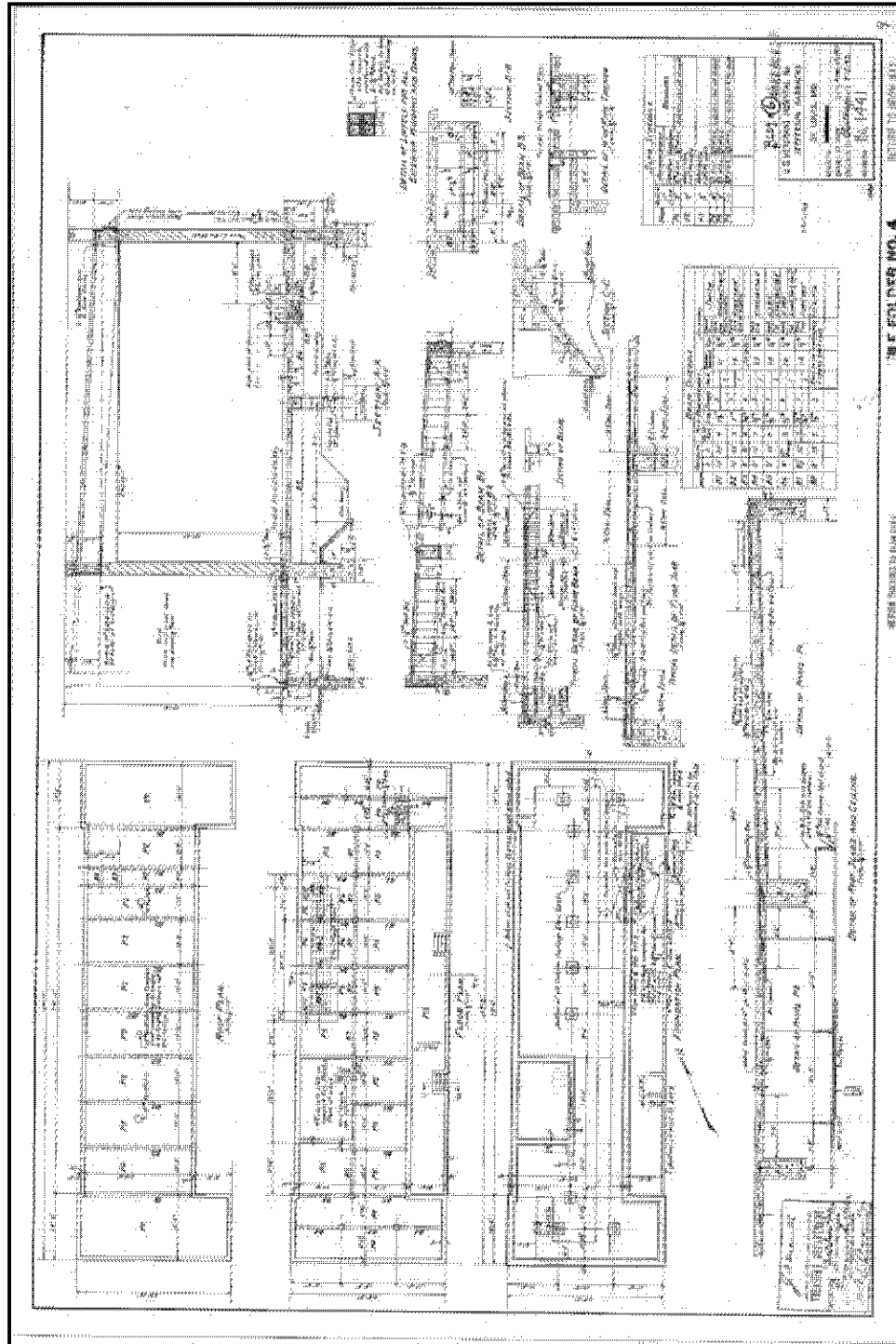
Maria Burkett, Roy Hampton
Hardlines Design Company
4608 Indianola Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43214
Tel: 614-784-8733
Fax: 614-786-9336

¹ Department of the Treasury, Supervising Architect's Office, *U.S. Veterans Bureau, Jefferson Barracks, Laundry*, 1922, on file at the St. Louis VA Medical Center, Jefferson Barracks Division, Building 3T.



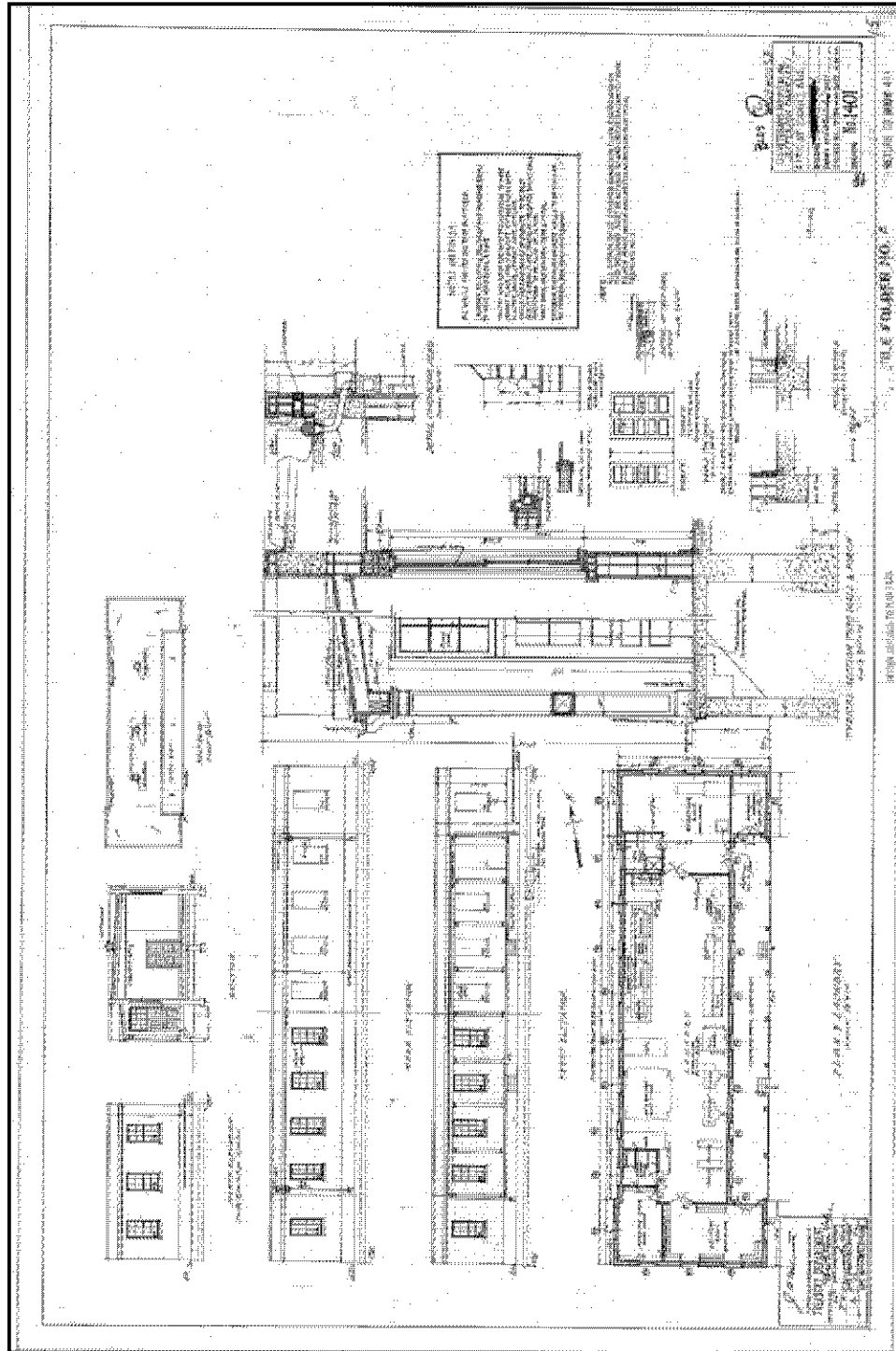
Laundry 1 (Building 6), current floor plan

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, LAUNDRY 1
HABS No. MO-1943-F
(Page 5)



Original floor plans and details for Laundry 1 (Building 6), 1922

U.S. VETERANS HOSPITAL, JEFFERSON BARRACKS, LAUNDRY 1
HABS No. MO-1943-F
(Page 6)



Original elevations and sections for Laundry 1 (Building 6), 1922